

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SNM-02 JUSE-00 SY-05 L-02 PRS-01

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P R 081655Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO DEA WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5478

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3178

CARACAS FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR EC

SUBJECT: DEA EXECUTIVE PROGRAM FOR COL. VACA

REF: QUITO 2975

1. AS DEPARTMENT AND DEA KNOW, GOE RECENTLY UNDERTOOK REORGANIZATION OF MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL POLICE. INCLUDED IN THIS REORGANIZATION WAS THE CREATION OF THE POSITION OF SUBSECRETARY FOR NATIONAL POLICE, WHICH IS NOW FILLED BY POLICE GENERAL LUIS ALARCON ARGUELLO. ALARCON HAS ALREADY MET SEVERAL TIMES WITH MISSION OFFICERS TO IMPRESS UPON THEM HIS INTEREST IN HELPING THE ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT AND IT IS HIGHLY LIKELY THAT AS THINGS SHAKE DOWN WITHIN HIS MINISTRY HE WILL SHARE SOME NARCOTICS COORDINATION RESPONSIBILITIES WITH COL. VACA.

2. ALARCON IS AWARE OF THE EXECUTIVE PROGRAM BEING ORGANIZED FOR COL. VACA AND IN A CONVERSATION MAY 7 WITH USAID DIRECTOR EXPRESSED A STRONG INTEREST IN JOINING COL. VACA ON HIS DEA-SPONSORED TOUR OF THE UNITED STATES. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT HIS REQUEST COMES AT A RATHER LATE DATE, WE THINK THERE IS CONSIDERABLE MERIT IN
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EXTENDING AN INVITATION TO THIS SUB-CABINET OFFICIAL

TO JOIN VACA ON HIS VISIT. ALARCON IS A TRAINED POLICE PROFESSIONAL WHO NOW FINDS HIMSELF IN A POLICY JOB AND HIS TALENTS PROBABLY COMPLEMENT VACA-S VERY NICELY SINCE VACA, AS A CAREER ARMY OFFICER IN A POLITICAL JOB, IS MUCH MORE POLICY ORIENTED AND HAS VIRTUALLY NO POLICE EXPERTISE. MOREOVER, IN TERMS OF ENCOURAGING GOE INTEREST IN THE ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT, WE THINK IT DESIRABLE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO ALARCON'S REQUEST IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. AS DEPARTMENT AND DEA CAN OF COURSE APPRECIATE, LATENESS OF THIS REQUEST IS EXPLAINED ENTIRELY BY THE FACT THAT THE POSITION OF SUBSECRETARY FOR POLICE WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT WAS CREATED VERY RECENTLY AND JUST FILLED BY ALARCON.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION REQUESTS THAT IT BE AUTHORIZED TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO GEN. ALARCON TO ACCOMPANY COL. VACA ON DEA EXECUTIVE PROGRAM. PLEASE ADVISE.
HEMENWAY

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